

For Monday, November 28th

Go to . . .

<http://www.antipode-online.net>

Peruse the journal and pick an article that interests you. Prepare a 3-4 minute in-class presentation about the article focusing on its content, methodology, data, and conclusions.

## A New Kind of Humanism

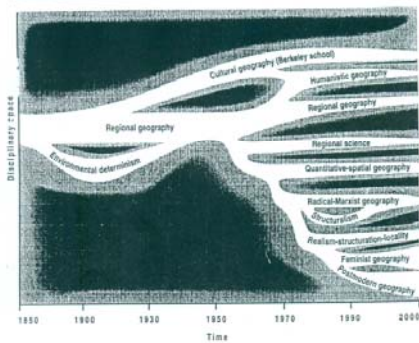
Which begs the questions . . .

- What is humanism?

and

- What was new?

From Richard Peet,  
*Modern Geographical Thought* (1998)



## Humanism

**Philosophy:** Any system of thought in which human interests, perceptions, values, and/or dignity are taken to be of primary interest.

**Epistemology:** Knowledge is obtained subjectively in a world of meanings created by individuals (perhaps with cultural inputs). What exists is that which people perceive to exist.

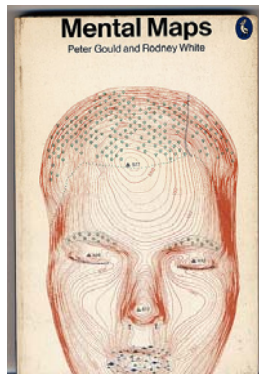
**Paradigm:** Exploration of individual worlds as revealed by interviews, questionnaires, diaries, ethnographies, observation, or other means.

## Two things were new

- Recognition of the importance of subjective reality (as a complement to objective reality)
- Growing awareness of the individual bases of subjective reality (e.g., upbringing, formal and informal education, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, personal travel, social linkages, exposure to popular culture and media, . . . )

## Two Categories of Geographic Knowledge

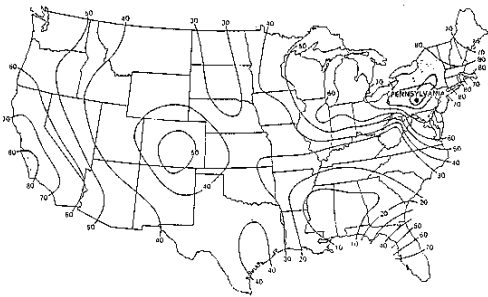
- **OBJECTIVE KNOWLEDGE** = information derived from impartial observation; accurate and objective information; scientific measurement; and/or imagery (photographs and paintings) that capture an area's essence.
- **SUBJECTIVE KNOWLEDGE** = information derived from the experience of others, or that has been filtered by personal experience, culture, and attitudes.



### Mental maps

- As originally described by Peter Gould, mental maps are cartographic depictions of place utility – that is, the perceived attractiveness (or unattractiveness) of a place or region with respect to social, economic, and environmental characteristics.
- Nowadays, the term is applied to any map that attempts to portray any idea that a person or group has about the shape or characteristics of a place or region.

### Peter Gould: The View from Pennsylvania



Do you have the same perception/feeling about each of these N.Y.C. neighborhoods?

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Chelsea         | • Bensonhurst        |
| • Flushing        | • Jackson Heights    |
| • Harlem          | • The East Village   |
| • Upper West Side | • Bedford/Stuyvesant |
| • Howard Beach    | • Park Slope         |
| • Chinatown       | • Upper east Side    |
| • Riverdale       | • South Bronx        |
| • Astoria         | • Washington Heights |

Do you feel the same way about each of these environmental terms?

- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| • Prairie  | • Desert    |
| • Forest   | • Foothills |
| • Swamp    | • Beach     |
| • Mountain | • Plain     |





This map of Florida is curious for its omission of the western part of the state

A propaganda map is a map that has been created for the purpose of influencing the way the viewer thinks about the world or part(s) of it.

### Propaganda

- Ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further a cause or to damage an opposing cause.
- Originally from *Congregatio de propaganda fide* ("Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith"), a decree issued by Pope Gregory XV in 1622 that created a committee of cardinals to centralize the administration of missionary activities of the Roman Catholic Church overseas.
- Only in the 19th and 20th centuries did "propaganda" become associated with the spread of subversive ideas, leading to its present negative connotation.

Japanese propaganda map from about the time of the Russo-Japanese War (1905) showing Russia as an octopus engulfing Eurasia



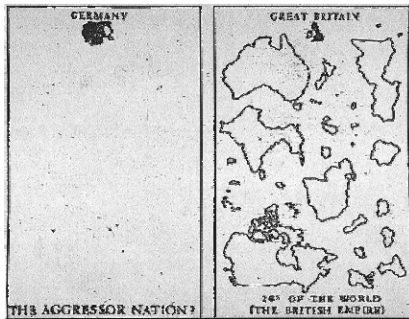
German WWI-Era map showing Germany steamrolled and overrun by foreign dogs



1934 Nazi Propaganda map meant to promote fear of possible Czech bombing



What is the message of this map?



Japanese propaganda map (1941) suggesting that Japan's oil supply could be cut off by a U.S. naval blockade emanating from the Philippines (then a U.S. territory)



An ad for Absolut Vodka that suggests a return to Mexico of lands it once possessed.

The ad ran in Mexico, but not in the United States.



Figure 3-1: The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. This map, centered on Havana, shows clearly the potential threat to Latin America as well as North America posed by Soviet offensive weapons based in Cuba. The inner circle represents the approximate range of the smaller missiles, the second that of the nuclear weapons-carrying boosters and the medium-range ballistic missiles, while the outer circle shows the approximate range of the intermediate-range missiles.

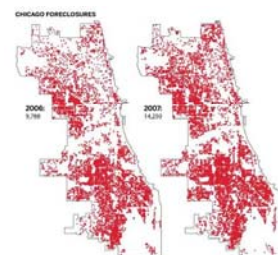
Can anyone within range of Iran's missiles feel safe?



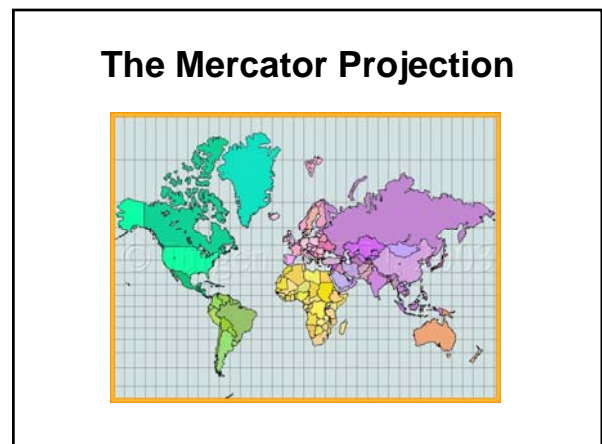
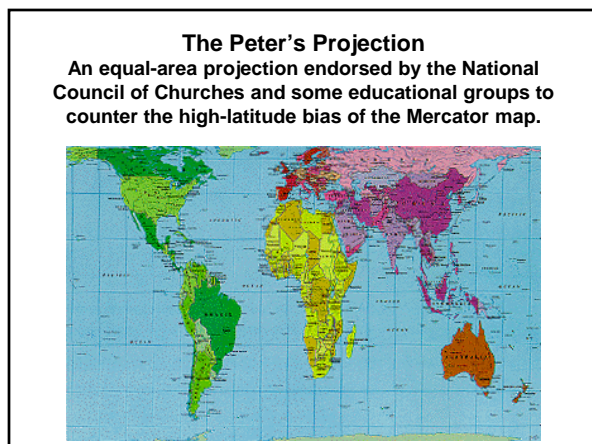
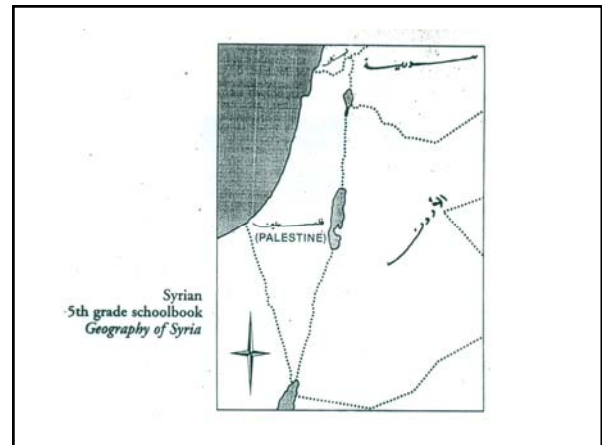
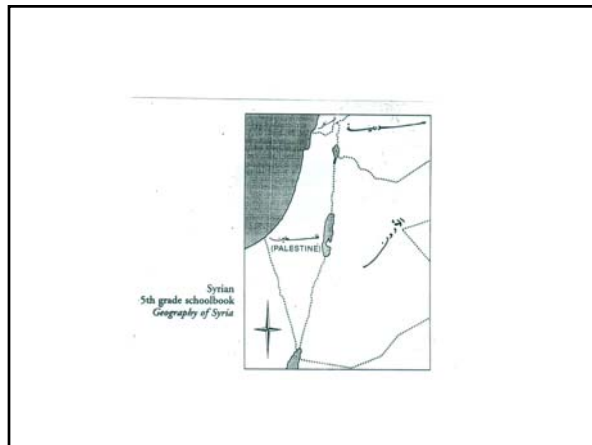
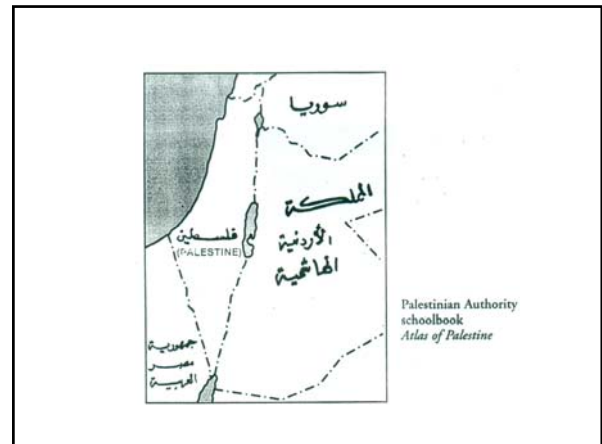
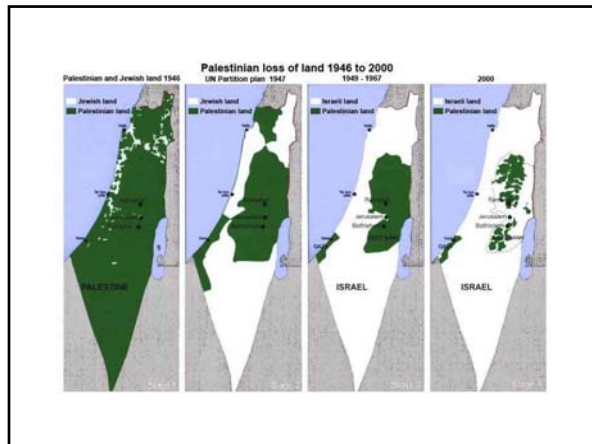
Suppose Iran one day gives nuclear devices to terrorists. Could anyone anywhere feel safe?



The dots represent foreclosures in Chicago. At this scale, however, each dot covers an area of about 400 ft. x 400 ft., making the problem look more geographically widespread than it is.







### The Robinson Projection

(commissioned by the National Geographic Society)



### "Terra Incognita:

#### The Place of Imagination in Geography"

- John K. Wright, 1947 A.A.G. Presidential Address
- Terra incognita = unknown land
- A ground-breaking article famous for its recognition of the subjective nature of much geographical knowledge, and for its call to treat subjective geographical knowledge as an important area for research.
- Helped give rise to the fields of behavioral geography and environmental perception, and to "the new humanism" in general.
- Concludes with "... the most fascinating *terra incognitae* of all are those that lie within the hearts and minds of men,"

### "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis"

- Written by Lynn White, Jr., in *Science*, 1967.
- Claims that our (Western) propensity for destructive ecological practices is rooted in Judeo-Christian theology.
- In *The Book of Genesis* God gives Man dominion over the rest of Creation, which was planned explicitly for man's benefit and rule.
- No item in the physical creation had any purpose save to serve man's purposes.
- Man is not simply a part of nature: he is made in God's image.
- Basically, the world is ours to do with as we please.

### Feng-shui

- Literally wind and water
- The Taoist art and science of living in harmony with the environment.
- Views the earth's surface features as possessing either positive or negative energies – yin or yang, respectively.
- Specific sites, therefore, are either auspicious or inauspicious with respect to human activity.
- Thus, it behooves humans to understand these energies and associated features, and use that knowledge to guide our interactions with the physical environment.

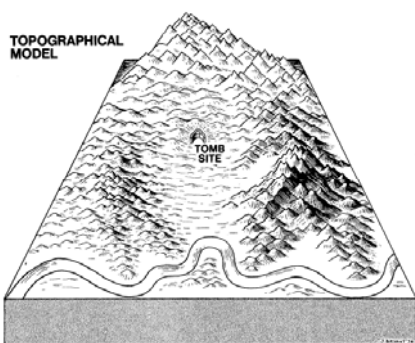
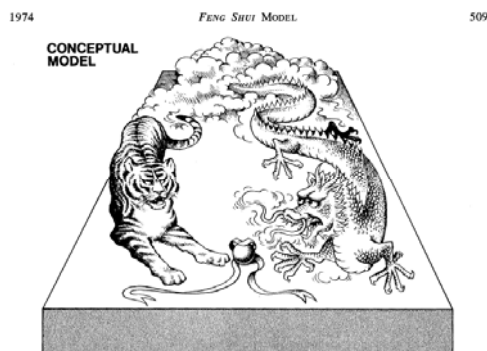


FIG. 2. Conceptual and topographic models of an ideal Feng Shui site.



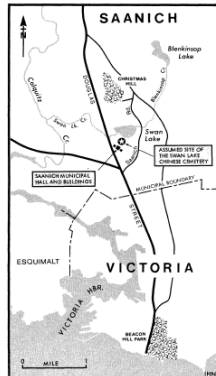


FIG. 1. The location of the presumed site of the Swan Lake Chinese cemetery.

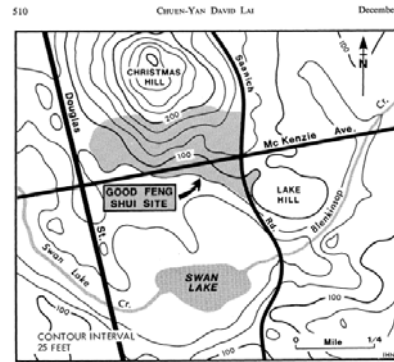


FIG. 3. Topography of the Swan Lake area.

### Repulse Bay Hotel, Hong Kong



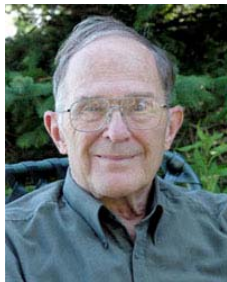
This article by Burton and Kates is one of the first in geography to address human propensity to reside in areas prone to natural hazards

#### THE FLOODPLAIN AND THE SEASHORE\* A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF HAZARD-ZONE OCCUPANCE IAN BURTON AND ROBERT W. KATES

THE United States is in danger today of embarking on a large-scale and costly program of coastal defense against storm hazard comparable with the program of flood control that has been operating in river valleys for the past quarter of a century. Federal legislation passed in 1936, and subsequently, has been largely the reason for the heavy investment in flood-control engineering works, to the neglect of possible alternatives. Yet appraisals of the flood-control program are in general agreement that despite federal expenditures of about five billion dollars, average annual damages from floods have continued to rise. Nor is a brighter prospect held for the future. The Chief of Engineers stated in 1960 that at the present rate of expenditure flood protection will "just about keep up with the increase in flood damage that may be anticipated by 1980 as a result of flood plain development over the next two decades."

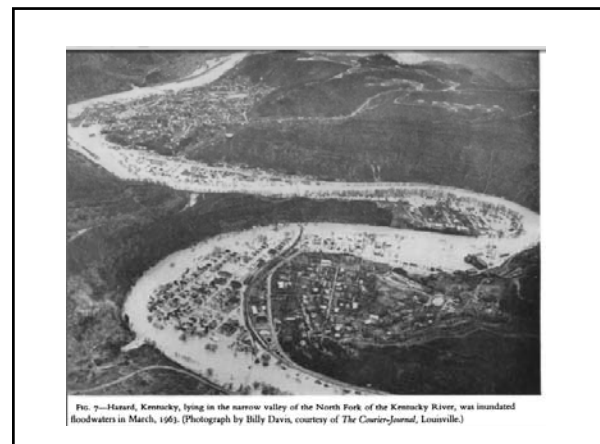
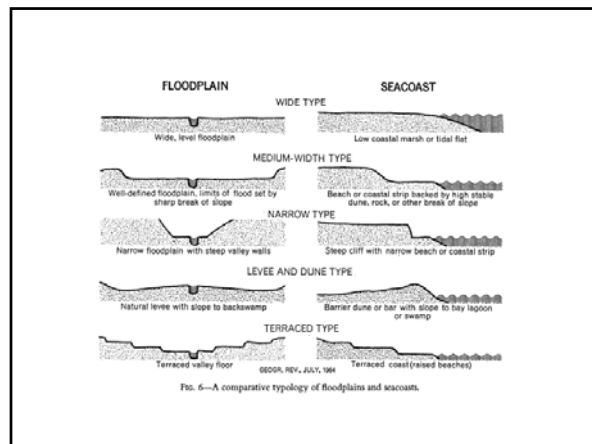
A repetition of the same course of action with respect to coastal flood problems seems likely. The storm of March 5-8, 1962, on the east coast of the

### Robert W. Kates (1929 - )



- Notable human geographer most famous for his work in natural hazard mitigation.
- His central research question: "What is and ought to be the human use of the earth?"
- His work on human response to natural hazards is especially noteworthy for helping to resurrect the concept of human adjustment to the environment -- which, in response to the excesses of environmental determinism, had been largely ignored for decades by geographers.





#### MEXICAN AMERICAN EXTERIOR MURALS

DANIEL D. ARREOLA

MURAL art became popular in the United States during the great depression, when wall paintings, sponsored by the Federal Arts Program of the WPA, were executed in public buildings across the land.<sup>1</sup> Currently mural art has become important on exterior walls of buildings and thus is part of an evolving pattern of street art.<sup>2</sup> This essay focuses on these murals as an element of the built environment that lends insight to cultural heritage, preferences, and change in a community. Exterior murals are now distinctive features in many urban landscapes, particularly in Mexican American districts of many cities. Here mural art is not only an artifact that embellishes the barrio landscape but also a vehicle for political and social expressions.<sup>3</sup>

Art and landscape are not new themes for geographers, but their emphasis has been on traditional art forms like canvas painting. A focus on less traditional forms like exterior murals presents several challenges not usually encountered in conventional studies of landscape art. Mexican American, or Chicano, mural art is relatively recent and not well documented in traditional sources. Much of the data presented here were collected in the field and through interviews with artists and art historians. Because these murals are part of the everyday landscape, they are exposed

Arreola's article focuses on art that is part of the landscape as opposed to art (paintings) that depicts the landscape. Mexican exterior (i.e., outdoor) murals are not simply works of art, but also expressions of ethnic identity and place identity, cultural values, political and social aspirations, and heritage.







FIG. 4—Untitled, J. Ruiz, El Porvenir neighborhood store, Austin, 1981.

# MEXICAN AMERICAN MURALS

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FIG. 5—"Entelequia," Carlos Rosas and Felipe Gallegos, Boys Club, El Paso, 1976.

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## THE GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

TABLE 1—MURAL SITES IN EL PASO AND TUCSON

SITE	EL PASO	TUCSON	TOTAL (N = 44)
Community centers/parks	6	11	17
Retail establishments	6	9	15
Housing projects/apartment buildings	2	2	4
Industrial buildings	4	0	4
Churches	0	2	2
Governmental buildings	0	1	1
Private houses	1	0	1

Source: Data collected by author 1982-1983.

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## THE GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW



FIG. 5—Untitled, Luis G. Mena, South Tucson Housing Project, South Tucson, 1977.

The article by McPherson and Haip is a study of environmental perception that focuses on changing attitudes regarding introduced plants and water use in a desert city.

### EMERGING DESERT LANDSCAPE IN TUCSON\*

E. GREGORY MCPHERSON and RENEE A. HAIP

**ABSTRACT.** Early in the twentieth century thousands of trees were planted in Tucson, and the city became an arboreal oasis. By the midcentury population boom planting had declined. Mechanical cooling reduced the need for tree shade, and golf and tennis replaced gardening as the preferred leisure-time activities. Prolonged water shortage has spurred the adoption of a new desert landscape marked by stone mulch and arid-adaptive plants. This landscape may have precedence for other cities similarly facing water shortages.

IN 1875 there were only three trees growing in Tucson, Arizona.<sup>1</sup> By 1910 thousands of exotic trees had been planted in an effort to transform the desert city into a garden spot of the Southwest. An equally dramatic change is now occurring throughout the city: the lush green vegetation of trees is being replaced by desert landscaping. The transition from a desert city to a garden city and the current return to the former reflect shifting attitudes of the populace toward the environment. What compelled this change, and what are the implications for urban dwellers in the future? Is the emergence of desert landscaping another example of history repeating itself, or does it express an evolutionary process that points to a more symbiotic relationship between man and nature? In this essay we examine urban vegetative changes in Tucson with the goal of answering these questions. We focus specifically on the geographical processes and natural-resource constraints that influenced attitudes toward tree planting and house landscaping during the past century.

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## THE GEOGRAPHICAL REVIEW



FIG. 1—Space for street trees was scarce along Meyer Street circa 1875. (Reproduced courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson)

